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JONES PAPERS.

(Library of Congress.)

[Captain Roger Jones came to Virginia with Lord Culpeper, was for some years prominent in the Colony, but returned to England, where he died. He had several children, among them Col. Thomas Jones of Williamsburg, Va. The last named married Feb. 4, 1725, Elizabeth, widow of William Pratt of Gloucester Co., Va., and daughter of Dr. Wm. Cocke, Secretary of State of Va., and his wife Elizabeth Catesby sister of Mark Catesby, the naturalist. Mrs. Cocke married secondly John Holloway, long Speaker of the House of Burgesses. In a most unusual way the papers of this family have been kept intact and a great mass of them descended to Judge L. H. Jones of Louisville, Ky. Judge Jones used some of these documents in preparing a valuable history of the family, of which two editions have been issued. It would almost seem that no letter written or received by any member of the family for several generations, and no business paper belonging to them has ever been lost. Judge Jones has given his family papers to the Library of Congress. Of course they afford most valuable information in regard to many phases of colonial life. The members of the family were people of large estates and high social standing in the Colony and later the family produced such men as Dr. Walter Jones, Member of Congress, Major General Roger Jones, U. S. A., Commander Catesby ap. R. Jones, C. S. A., of *Virginia* fame, Brig. Gen'l Roger Jones, U. S. A., and General Walter Jones of Washington, D. C. It is a pleasure to note that several younger members of the family are keeping up its traditions by promptly entering into active service in the present war.]

CATESBY COCKE (1) TO HIS SISTER MRS. PRATT.

Stafford 17th february 1724

My Dear Sister I shall be very glad when this shall acquit me of a promise I made of writing to you when we parted that is, in short, I shall be glad when you receive my Letter that I may the sooner have an answer but you must Excuse this roundabout way of writing as coming from a very barren place and where without that and indeed with it I shall hardly be able to make my Letter as full as the Friendship between us requires, which by the way you may take as a Hint of what I expect from you.

I believe you'll think it strange that your Brother of all people in the World should turn Critick & in Dress but that I'll leave to your own Judgment till I shall see you to justify my self in some prodigious accounts of what my Travels have aforded and to that Time I'll leave it for if the picture should be seen, it would too easily discover the Original & the Carriage of Letters in Virginia is well known not to be always safe tho I am at present as innocent of the person that may carry this as you are and I'm satisfied always have been of those I just now spoke of. In my Journey to Westmoreland I lay at Colo. Tayloes (2) and there saw Mrs. Chiswell [?] they live in a very genteel manner and both Tayloe & his lady are as agreeable people as I know and seem to be as happy in each other as their Neighbors are in them. They have three Children, the youngest as fine a Child as ever I saw & a very pretty wel-behaved Girl which I am certain you of all people in

(1) Catesby Cocke, son of Dr. William Cocke. He was born Sept. 1702, and lived first in Stafford and afterwards at "Belmont" in what is now Fairfax county. He married and left several children. The "poem" he refers to was evidently by some local rhymster, and contained personal hits which had caused much talk in the adjoining counties of the Northern Neck. "Young Col. Hooe," was one of the two or three Rice Hooes living about that time. Elizabeth Lunn or Land was married on Dec. 22, 1726, to Townshend Washington. The Alexander family had become numerous in this section by the first quarter of the Eighteenth Century. Catesby Cocke's familiarity with Pilgrim's Progress is worth noting. Betty Pratt was a daughter of Mrs. Jones by her first marriage.

(2) Col. Tayloe was John Tayloe, the first, of "Mt. Airy." Mrs. Chiswell was the wife of Charles Chiswell, whose iron works William Byrd visited on his "Trip to the Mines."

the world will allow the surest way to make harmony last. Mrs. Mason sends her service to you, she has a fine little prating Girl & a Boy about the age of Billy. If this should light into other hands I shall be taken for a fine gossip but the pleasure I know you have always taken in such discourse since you have been a mother makes me mention these things and as such I am apt to think you'll receive it, tho' I must own the same from you would give me the greatest satisfaction whether it relates to our own family, which I desire you would gratify me in by a full account of my niece and nephews.

As soon as I came hither I heard from people who pretended to know it that R admires itself beyond any Letter in the alphabet tho I cou'd have told 'em theres another with the same sound which might possibly in some measure take from it the admiration of its own pretty self. I expect to have the issue of that and things of the like nature.

My service to Mr. Secretary and all the family.

I am my Dear Sister's affectionate Brother & most obedient and Humble Servant

Catesby Cocke

Wednesday 22—february, 1724

I received last night Letters from my Mother & Sister Nanny which I take for your Reason of not writing at the same Time & I hope hereafter will be received as a good excuse for me when I only write to one of the ffamily tho' I shall take all occasions of writing to more when I can furnish my Self with Matter. I beg you would make my excuse to Mr. Robertson & my Sister Nanny for not writing it now being Night and to Morrow I shall set out early for Westmoreland when I expect an Opportunity of sending this to you.

I heartily pity the Inhuman usage of some people ab't 120 miles from hence but other people best know the Cause—and to my Dear once more bid you heartily farewell & as before

C. C.

CATESBY COCKE TO HIS SISTER MRS. THOMAS JONES.

Stafford 25th October 1726

Mad'm

The Civilities I received from my Brother & yourself whilst I staid in Town were sufficient to engage a formal acknowledgment but I suppress that purely from an Opinion I have of your merit which scorns to be flattered and a mortal aversion of my own to all set speeches. For these reasons I rather chuse to make the inclosed Poem my subject, and that it may be read with the better gout, I shall endeavour to explain as much of it as comes within my knowledge. You have already heard to whom the world stands indebted for this incomparable piece, and therefore think it needless to speak further of the author, than that young Colo. Hooe besides the additional Character of a poet, is at present the most compleat Orator & sow gelder within the King of Potomack's Dominions. But to the purpose—from the first Line wherein he so passionately desires the use of Aaron's Breast plate and Soloman's Head piece, to his choice of a Text for a wedding sermon, which in my humble Opinion wou'd serve as well for a fluneral, or the Poesie of a mourning Ring; he is exposing himself for the Dear sake of one Eliz'a Lunn, a spinster in the Neighbourhood, whom it is supposed he takes notice of only to support a piece of Gallantry pretty much indulged by the Beaux Esprits of all ages. The person whom he hints at as a rival in several places particularly in the thirteenth verse, where he proclaims the Barreness of his Land on the River, is one Mr. Townshend Washington, a young gentlemen in this Neck of great Solidity, and forbears to resent the aspersion, either from a prudent Consideration that people violently affected with the passion may committ Extravagances they would avoid in their lucid Intervals, or that he has the Honour to call Mr. Hooe Cousin; But however free that Gentleman may make with his Relations, I am afraid the God of Battle, who has by other poets always been represented as of too warm a Temper, will hardly take his Epithet of dulafyed for the intended Complement; tho what that is, learned as I am, my Comment must be

Silent. I shall only observe that she whom he incloses in the same stanza with Eliz, by the name of Nancy is Mrs. Ann Alexander ———.

The present object of his ardent vows and by all regarded as the happy person destined to finish his sufferings.

The Character of this Poem has with us at present is various, as the Relish of its Readers, and if I remember right, two Lines in Master John Bunians Proem to the Pilgrims Progress are not altogether inapplicable;

Some said John print it, others said no

Some said it was good, and others said not so

which with the Liberty of an Editor, I shall press as a motto to the Work. Colo. Ashton being asked his opinion very frankly and in the sincerity of his Heart answered he hardly thought there was another in the whole County able to perform the like; to which a Gentleman of my acquaintance replied—Nor I, by G—d S S^r in the whole Country. Thus have I given you what account I am capable of, and perhaps much more than you desire, though for that ee'n thank your self who set the stone rolling.

Amongst our Childish Quarrels, I remember on Reflection your then little Ladyship would insult me with being slow, which was really unanswerable, till I discovered that notwithstanding your Expedition, the delay used to a Beginning frequently rendered that virtue almost ineffectual. Now I have for my part all my life tho' to little purpose, endeavored an amendment in that particular, and if you would give me an opinion of your sincerity, either ingenuously acknowledge your fault six months hence, or by the first opportunity give me the satisfaction of seeing a reformation in you by answering my Letter. Pray give my humble service to Mr. Jones and my brother Billy, and tell Betty Pratt I often think of her, and hope she remembers me & that I send her my kind love & Service, which I suppose she will imagine but an indifferent return to her "Vat'll you gi me tho'" and therefore I desire when you write I may have some of her discourse on it, which I am persuaded will be entertaining enough. I will conclude this with my best wishes for you both, and Am my Dear Sister your truly affectionate Brother Catesby Cocke

A PHYSICIAN'S BILL, 1747

[The payment of the account of a Williamsburg doctor rendered to Thos. Jones, shows the old practice of the physician dispensing drugs as well as medical advice.]

1747 Colo. Thomas Jones		Dr		
		£	s	d
Sept. 19	To Antispasmodick Julep to himself.....	2	6	
	To two Blisters.....	3		
20	To the Julep.....	2	6	
21	To Do.....	2	6	
23	To Stomachick Decoction.....	2	6	
24	To Do.....	2	6	
25	To 4 Febrifuge Boluses	4	0	
26	To the Decoction with Additions.....	3	6	
27	To Do.....	3	6	
	To Pectoral Mixture.....	2	6	
30	To Do.....	2	6	
Nov. 11	To Emetick Tincture.....	2	6	
	To Purging Powder for his son.....	1	6	
13	To Attendance to himself.....	7	10	0
21	To Paregorick Draught to his Son Catesby..	1	6	
22	To Do.....	1	6	
25	To Do.....	1	6	
26	To Do.....	1	6	
27	To Do.....	1	6	
28	To Do.....	1	6	
29	To Do.....	1	6	
30	To Purging Pills.....	2	0	
	To the Draught.....	1	6	
Dec. 1	To Do.....	1	6	
	To Oil of Sweet Almonds.....	1	6	
2	To Purging Pills & Draught.....	3	6	
3	To Restrington Tincture.....	1	6	
	To A Draught.....	1	6	
4	To Do for Mr. Catesby.....			
	To Purging Potion to Mr. Frederick.....			

- 5 To Draught for Mr. Catesby..... ..
 6 To Do for Do..... ..
 To Do for Do..... ..

[This account was probably from Dr. Pasteur of Williamsburg. Catesby and Frederick were two of Col. Jones sons.]

THOMAS JONES (4) TO MRS. PRATT.

Dear Madam

I was so well yesterday I was going to send you word my illness was so sensibly abated that (word illegible) hopes of having ye honor of Kissing your hands in a very short time, But I find it would only have been flattering myself with an imaginary happiness and disappointing you of a Visit so soon as my pretensions might (two words illegible) The vicissitudes of our human nature are such that we are not certain to day what will happen ye morrow, being applicable to myself upon ye occasion I rose this morning as well as I could expect But about nine a Clock I had a return of my indisposition, which handled me with some severity till about three this afternoon, when I fell into a doze till about five, and am now tollerable easy. I take ye freedom of giving you this short account of my present state, because my friendship & affections in due community with my heart call upon me to pay my devoirs to you in such mannar as I am able to hope you will give me leave to conclude with assuring you that most affectionately I am madam

Your most faithful & most obedient humble servant

October ye 5, 1725

Thos: Jones

(4) The letters which follow are some of those written by Col. Thos. Jones while wooing the widow Pratt. She was young, evidently attractive, and had other suitors. The reader will no doubt say, "Was ever woman in such humor wooed." The details of a severe and troublesome disease are not usually regarded as means of fascinating, but after all, results are the thing. Col. Jones won the widow.

THOMAS JONES TO MRS. PRATT

Madam

I am so firmly possessed with a duty incumbent upon me to you that 'tis hardly ever out of my thoughts yet when I take a pen in my hand I am so stupid I know not what to write as if the agreeable conceptions of my mind day after day had done their office & had forsaken me, tho the subject is so Elegant it would fill sheets of paper in Commendation of all its parts. But ends in a little billet with a do you by my poor nurse, a faint attempt to win the fair, but even if no more than that be acceptable it will be some comfort & shall only ad what ever is determined for me, that you may enjoy all ye Blessings Heaven has in store for ye best of its Creations with which conclusion most affectionately I am

Dearest Madam

October ye 7th
1725

Your most faithful & most obedient
humble servant

Thos. Jones

I am now in hopes of mending every day having been pretty easy these two days

 THOMAS JONES TO MRS. PRATT

Madam

I should wonder if ere this you are not tired with a Correspondence of this kind in giving you so fickle an acc't of myself, as sometimes that I am pretty well and at other times that I am worse, as it now happens, having had but little ease since I was honored with your last answer (that you was very glad I had been easy these two days) I endeavour to bear my present afflictions, or rather the moderate Chastisements of my Creator with more Constancy of Mind than my Fortitude could support me under with out assistance of his Providence which is always ready in time of need even under its own punishments, to those that either deserve or ask the favour, among the last

of which I place myself. It is in vain to repine or to deem my present circumstances unhappy. But if my Heart could take a flight from ye imprisonment of a worthless Carcasse little better than dirt, it should whisper to you in your Slumbers the truth of my soul, that you may be agreeably surprised with the Lustre of Celestial Visions surrounding you on every side with presents of joy & Comfort in one continued Sleep 'till ye Sparkling Rays of ye Sun puts you in Mind with Him to Bless the Earth with your Presence then may contentm't attend you as near in similitude as near as ever possible to those happy favourites of Heaven to which I shall only beg leave to ad that most affectionately I am

Dearest Madam

Your most faithful & most obedient
humble servant

Monday night

seven a clock

Thos. Jones

Octob. ye 11th 1725

I have been pretty easy about an hour or two, how long I may continue so I am not certain. Adieu dearest protector of my happiness

T. J.

THOMAS JONES TO MRS. PRATT

Madam

I believe it is very natural for Persons of your humanity & goodness to have patite [?] desire to know ye Condition of their friends in whatever state of human life they are in. Indeed I am at a loss to describe mine, but at present so easy that I have at least hopes of a longer recess than when I gave you ye last trouble upon this occasion for about an hour after my Illness returned with some violence. It seems before ye Doctor proceeds any further on his part, he wants ye operation of Nature, who I am afraid will treat me very roughly, and who I suppose is taking her rounds this sickly time, this being the third day of her absence, but upon her next Visit they are to hold a consultation, to make a result (*sic*) upon my Case,

by which I may suppose I am to wade through Rivers of water gruel, & Chicken Broth strengthened with mollasses with no other support then ye yolks of four poached eggs once a day without bread or salt. Strictly observing these rules, you may believe I make it my choice to stay a little longer in this World, not with standing any construction my case will be as of making preparations for another, & if any such conclusion could be made I should not blame you if you thought a man not for this World was not for your purpose, but as I hope my case is not so desperate, nothing shall be wanting in me to facilitate my recovery, & to make myself as easy as I can in everything that shall be decreed for me by my fate and you, whatever that may be. I wish you all the Comforts of this life and for ye next I believe you have no occasion for them; which with my Petition to Heaven for your sweetest repose I beg leave to conclude with ye greatest respect, & most entire affection, & to assure you that I am

Dearest Madam

Thursday night

eight a clock

October ye 14th 1725

Your most faithful & most obedient
humble servant

Thos. Jones

THOMAS JONES TO MRS. PRATT

Madam,

The reflection of my own thoughts to me is a sufficient conviction that you have but ("little" erased) reason to be pleased at so much nonsense as I have pestered you with from time to time relating to myself, but as you are mistress of so many excellent qualities, I imagine your charity & good humor will screene me from any higher resentment than to laugh at my folly. I have not been very easy since Saturday when Nature made her first approaches from a Close retirement since Monday last, at first she appeared in a very sullen mood accepting me with her frowns & began ye dispute with very angry rebutes which held at times till this morning about 8 a clock when she gave me a gracious smile & laid me in a

sound sleep till eleven & now seems with great tenderness to favor my case, and I am resolved to give her no further provocation at this time, restraining myself to chicken broth only, and shall take such care of my steps, that I do not despair of paying you a visit in your little Paradise in a short time, at what I hope you will not be too much surprised because my appearance will be more like a Ghost from ye lower Regions, than an angel from above. You may judge Madam by the dullness of my stile, ye lowness of my condition as it really is, being reduced more with pain and abstinence than sickness, but as I have already apologized for troubling you with a subject that may be so insignificant to you, I shall only ad that I hope your Joy and Comfort will be perpetual, and always equal to your worth & charns, which with my repeated assurance that most affectionately I am

Dearest Madam

Your most faithful and most obedient

October ye 18th 1725 humble servant

Monday night

Thos. Jones

Tenn a Clock

(To be continued)